

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 571  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to designate certain portions of land along Interstate 440 in Davidson County as "Descendants Park" in honor of Charles A. Howell, III, founder of "Descendants Day!" and to designate a certain portion thereof as "Battle of Nashville Monument Park" and to dedicate the rest of the land as parkland.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee acquired certain acreage along I-440 Parkway from Belmont Boulevard in Nashville to Interstate 65 in anticipation of building an interchange at Granny White Pike; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Davidson County expressed legitimate concerns to certain state officials, including the Commissioner of Transportation, about the wisdom of the State's constructing such interchange; and

WHEREAS, those in authority determined, in due course, that such action was not in the best interests of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee had previously purchased many tracts of land in that locale in anticipation of the construction; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee now owns valuable property that it cannot sell because such land is now deemed to be an important cultural and archaeological site; and

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WHEREAS, Charles A. Howell, III has excelled in each of his professional and civic endeavors, including meritorious service as a community activist, contractor, legislator, Commissioner of Conservation and President of the Cumberland Science Museum; and

WHEREAS, today, Mr. Howell is working assiduously to assure the success of Trust for the Future, an educational organization he founded to promote “loving our neighbors across time”; and

WHEREAS, Trust for the Future is committed to building a network based on a forum of human understanding and sustainable conservation efforts by conducting programs in six areas: environmental sensitivity in construction; preservation of public assets such as coal, oil and other fossil fuels; urban revitalization; institutional advancement by helping non-profit organizations with fundraising and public relations; intergenerational compassion that stresses spirituality and moral values; and intergenerational justice and equity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell seeks to specifically promote intergenerational justice and equity through an annual observance of “Descendants Day!” on June 28<sup>th</sup> of each year; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years, Mr. Howell was a successful contractor who specialized in preservation; as a result of his professional experience, he possesses considerable expertise in quality building materials and methods and understands the value of using sustainable materials; and

WHEREAS, his strong convictions and an outgoing personality later propelled him into politics and he was elected as a member of the first Metropolitan Nashville Council in 1962; and

WHEREAS, he served admirably in the House of Representatives during the 86<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Charles Howell has demonstrated his stalwart commitment to historic preservation by means of his astute service as CEO of Historic Nashville, Inc; and

WHEREAS, he also holds life memberships in the Tennessee Recreation and Park Association, the Ladies Hermitage Association and the Rugby Restoration Association; and

WHEREAS, his meritorious efforts earned him the Award for Preservation Achievement from Historic Nashville in 1980, a United States Corps of Engineers award for the preservation of Mill Springs Mill in 1977, and an award from the Tennessee Arts Commission in recognition of his sterling advocacy for historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Governor Lamar Alexander named Mr. Howell Commissioner of Conservation; in this vital position, he oversaw a \$60 million budget and nearly 3,000 employees and gained valuable first-hand knowledge of environmental problems and opportunities across the State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell brought unbridled enthusiasm and keen business acumen to the multifarious affairs of the department and gave this state agency direction; and

WHEREAS, under his expert guidance, the Main Street revitalization program was initiated and the department built the first-ever soccer fields in state parks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell also planted the seed that saw fruition in Homecoming '86 and his Department of Conservation took the lead in planning and executing this worthy exercise in civic pride; and

WHEREAS, after leaving state government, he served with distinction as President of the Cumberland Science Museum, in which position he oversaw the development of Grassmere Wildlife Park; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell was an early advocate for waste avoidance and responsible waste management as exemplified by his dedicated service as chairman and board member of the Nashville Thermal Transfer Corporation; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Mr. Howell has dedicated his time and considerable talents to the realization of Descendants State Park at the aforementioned location in Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, because of his unfaltering commitment and stellar service to intergenerational compassion and justice and the preservation of our Earth for future

generations, it is most appropriate that this new state park should be named in Mr. Howell's honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That all the state's owned portion of land along Interstate 440 from Belmont Boulevard to Interstate 65 in Davidson County except the southwestern quadrant of the intersection of Granny White Pike and Battlefield Drive is hereby declared a Cultural Unit of the Division of State Parks of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a portion of such cultural unit at the southeastern quadrant of Granny White Pike and Battlefield Drive to be determined by the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation is hereby designated "Descendants Park" to honor Charles A. Howell, III, a distinguished and devoted public servant, beneficent founder of Trust for the Future and the moving force behind the celebration of "Descendants Day!".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Descendants Park be established to appropriately honor the work of Mr. Howell and his colleagues as they have diligently worked to leave a rich and full legacy for all descendants of their respective generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation is directed to erect suitable markers designating "The Charles A. Howell, III, Descendants Park".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a portion of the southwestern quadrant of the said state's owned portion of land at the intersection of Battlefield Drive and Granny White Pike, as determined by the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, is hereby declared a Cultural Unit of the Division of State Parks of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such cultural unit is hereby designated "Battle of Nashville Monument Park", where the Battle of Nashville monument is, or will be located.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the balance of the state owned property along I-440 Parkway between Belmont Boulevard and Interstate 65 be opened to the public for use as parkland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation.